



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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AQMD, SOUTH KOREA TO COLLABORATE ON AIR POLLUTION STRATEGIES

The region's air quality agency will collaborate with two South Korean environmental agencies to identify strategies to help improve existing air pollution programs in the capitol city of Seoul.

"We've gained tremendous expertise over the years while addressing Southern California's air pollution problem," said William A. Burke, Ed.D., chair of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). "This international partnership will give us an opportunity to share our lessons learned with Seoul, which experiences some similar air pollution challenges."

AQMD has approved a Memorandum of Understanding with the Metropolitan Air Quality Management Office (MAMO) of Greater Seoul and the Korea Environment Corporation (KECO) of the Republic of Korea, formalizing a collaboration of information sharing on air pollution strategies. South Korea's environmental agencies will work closely with AQMD to compare various approaches and initiatives already in place that may help accelerate their progress in improving air quality.

The MOU follows an AQMD staff visit to Seoul in November 2011 to participate in an international air quality symposium hosted by the Korean Society for Atmospheric Environment, and a subsequent trip to AQMD by the Director-General of Seoul's MAMO office in March 2012.

Under the agreement, AQMD will provide technical training and seminars for South Korean representatives and share information on health risk assessments and air pollution forecasting techniques. AQMD will also provide a comprehensive look at national, state, and local air pollution regulations in the United States to assist South Korea in building a technical foundation for long-range planning, including pollution prevention and control strategies.

Seoul is the capital and largest city in South Korea with more than 10 million people, many of whom live in densely populated areas. The city currently has an air pollution control plan in place, similar to AQMD's Air Quality Management Plan, and South Korea has a regional

emissions trading system for nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides to tackle its ozone and PM_{2.5} pollution.

In 2011, AQMD had a similar formalized collaboration with China. AQMD has also had prior informational exchanges with air quality authorities in Chile, France, Greece, India, Mexico, and Portugal.

For information about AQMD and ways residents can get involved to help clean the air, visit www.aqmd.gov/kor.

AQMD is the air pollution control agency for Orange County and major portions of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

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